



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 29, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the 21st Century Schools Grant

The Michigan Legislature has directed that \$15,000,000 be made available for competitive grants to districts to provide opportunities to create smaller, more personal high school environments. Eligible grantees are local education agencies or Public School Academies (PSAs) that have a district wide cohort graduation rate for high school pupils below 70%, as determined by the Center for Educational Performance and Information. PSAs will use the district wide cohort graduation rate of the district where a majority of students enrolled in the PSA reside.

Successful grantees must design the proposal so that by the time the third high school class graduates from the school, the school achieves an 80% graduation rate and 80% of graduates enroll in postsecondary studies within 6 months of graduation. They must also provide open enrollment, have a maximum of 110 students in each high school grade level, incorporate relationship-building goals, and have a commitment of private matching funds equal to the amount of the grant request. Preference will be given to applicants that include grades 6 – 12 in their proposals rather than proposals that include only grades 9 – 12.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 21st Century Schools Grant, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated September 29, 2008.

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**MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Criteria for 21st Century Schools Grant

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal, and the Board's Vision and Principles of Universal Education.

PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT

This grant will support the State Board of Education priority to continue to advocate and promote high school reform, with an emphasis on relevance, relationships, and implementation, by implementing a program to support, sustain and replicate small, effective high schools using the 21st Century Fund.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

☒ Competitive ☐ Formula ☒ New ☐ Continuation *(check all that apply)*

The 21st Century Fund grew out of a Governor's initiative to improve high schools. The Superintendent of Public Instruction led a group of legislative, education and business leaders to study effective practices in other states and develop a proposal. The Legislature added language to institute the Fund in the 2008-09 State Aid budget. School districts with large, low performing high schools may apply for grant funds up to \$3 million, paid out over a four year period. Applicants will also have to provide private matching funds, equal to the amount of the grant, for their four year proposal. Funds can be used for planning and start-up costs.

CRITERIA

Date criteria were last approved : N/A

☒ Defined in Legislation ☐ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder ☒ Proposed by Staff

Successful applicants must:

Include school or learning communities in grades 6-12

Have a cohort graduation rate for the district that is below 70%. A public school academy applicant will use the district wide cohort graduation rate of the district where a majority of students enrolled in the PSA reside.

- Provide open enrollment if there are more applicants than seats
- Have a maximum of 110 pupils in each grade (9-12) and an average 75 students per grade

Incorporate relationship-building goals (teachers, students, parents and administration)

Have a commitment of private matching funds at least equal to the amount of the grant request

Include a statement of commitment to site-based management

Identify an intermediary/school developer partner (preferred)

Commit to the evaluation requirement by earmarking a percentage of the budget for evaluation

Additionally, preference will be given to proposals that implement strategies to prepare middle school students for high school. No more than one third of grants will go to public school academies.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

Local school districts and public school academies with graduation rates below 70% and with large high schools that are not meeting academic achievement targets.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

\$15,000,000

LEGISLATION

Section 388.11n of the State School Aid Act, recently added by 2008 PA 268.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

Office of the Superintendent/MaryAlice Galloway – gallowaym@michigan.gov or 517-241-4185